

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
March 15, 2006

Contact: Lynette Maselli
Public Information Specialist
304-558-6279 x1126

TYLER COUNTY INSURANCE AGENT INDICTED ON MULTIPLE CHARGES OF INSURANCE FRAUD

CHARLESTON, WV – West Virginia Insurance Commissioner, Jane L. Cline, announced today that longtime insurance agent Bennie H. Kile Jr. of the Kile Insurance Agency was indicted this week on seven (7)) felony counts of insurance fraud.

Kile allegedly took money from customers for promised insurance policies and then failed to provide those policies on at least five instances. Kile also allegedly forged a customer's signature on an insurance application form.

"Fraud is a crime that saturates every type of insurance and makes victims of all consumers by inflating premiums and increasing the cost of buying goods and services," Cline said. "We are committed to reducing insurance fraud; a crime that costs consumers nationwide billions of dollars each year."

Kile, of Sistersville in Tyler County, was indicted March 13, 2006 by a Tyler County Grand Jury on five (5) felony counts of conducting a fraudulent scheme, one (1) felony count of forgery and one (1) felony count of uttering.

The Insurance Commission's Fraud Unit conducted the investigation in cooperation with the Tyler County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and the West Virginia State Police.

A Fraudulent scheme covers multiple acts and victims. Each of the seven felony counts carries a one to ten year prison sentence and fines of up to \$2,500.

Anyone with information relating to a suspected case insurance fraud is urged to call, toll-free, 1-888-372-8392.